

Public Issues Report 1st Quarter 2013

Public File – 1st Quarter 2013

January 1st – March 31st

News at

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JANUARY 2013

January 2nd

THE prez is headed back to hawaii to continue his vacation because the HOUSE finally APPROVED A SENATE BILL AND AVOIDED THAT DREADED FISCAL CLIFF overnight. but, you will still see a smaller paycheck. The deal did not extend a payroll tax cut, so those making 30 grand a year are looking at about 50 bucks less a month.

THE NEW YEAR MEANS MORE MONEY IN YOUR WALLET...AT LEAST FOR a million people across the u-s...MINIMUM WAGE IS INCREASING IN 10 STATES... Nine of those were part of automatic cost-of-living increases. But in rhode island the wage was upped thanks to a new law.

January 3rd

AND THANKS TO THE WHOLE FISCAL CLIFF FIASCO... YOUR TAX REFUND CHECK IS GOING TO BE LATE GETTING TO YOU. EVEN THOUGH THE BIG O HAS SIGNED THE NEW LAW.... SINCE IT JUST HAPPENED... All the software used TO PROCESS TAX RETURNS has to be updated. THE I-R-S WEBSITE SAYS THEY'RE REVIEWING THE LEGISLATION AND ASSESSING THE IMPACT IT WILL HAVE ON THIS YEAR'S FILING SEASON.

THE COMPANY IS RECALLING MORE THAN 600-THOUSAND CARS IN THE U-S OVER PUDDLE LIGHTS WHICH COULD POTENTIALLY CAUSE SMOKE OR FIRE. THE MODELS AFFECTED ARE 2009 THROUGH 20-12 FORESTERS, ALL 20-10 THROUGH 20-12 LEGACY AND OUTBACKS, AND SOME 2006 THROUGH 20-12 TRIBECA.

SUBARU SAYS IT WILL NOTIFY ALL OWNERS. FOR MORE INFO HEAD TO THE D-B-Z-DOT-COM.

January 4th

AND IN THE CONTINUED shakeOUT FROM THE NEWTOWN massacre... CONNECTICUT'S GOVERNOR IS CREATING A COMMISSION TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND CHANGES TO GUN LAWS AND POLICIES in his state. THE GROUP OF ABOUT 15 PEOPLE WILL LOOK AT NOT JUST THE GUN LAWS... BUT ALSO SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURES... GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION... AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. THE REPORT IS DUE BACK MARCH 15TH... SO THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CAN TAKE ACTION DURING THIS UPCOMING TERM WHICH STARTS WEDNESDAY.

IS THE PERSON YOU ARE TODAY THE REAL AND FINAL YOU? A NEW HARVARD STUDY SAYS NOPE! YOU WILL CHANGE MORE THAN YOU THINK.

RESEARCHERS FOUND PEOPLE OF ALL AGES ADMIT THEY'VE CHANGED AND MATURE OVER THE PAST DECADE, BUT ALSO UNDERESTIMATE THE AMOUNT THEY WILL CHANGE THE NEXT 10-YEARS. THEY CALL THIS THE "END OF HISTORY ILLUSION" -- IT'S LIKE THINKING YOU ARE AT THE PINNACLE OF YOUR PERSON GROWTH, WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE.

January 7th

THIS YEAR'S FLU SEASON HAS HIT EARLY... AND IT'S HIT HARD. NEARLY EVERY STATE IS REPORTING WIDESPREAD FLU OUTBREAKS... AND THE NUMBER OF CASES SEEMS TO HAVE REALLY SPIKED WITHIN THE PAST WEEK. IN A TYPICAL SEASON... DOCS USUALLY SEE AN INCREASE IN CASES STARTING IN MID-JANUARY. BUT THIS YEAR THEY STARTED SEEING THEM IN DECEMBER. COMBINE *THAT WITH THE FACT THE STRAIN CIRCULATING IS THE ONE THAT MAKES US THE SICKEST... AND THINGS AREN'T LOOKING TOO GOOD.

FOURTH QUARTER EARNINGS SEASON KICKS OFF TOMORROW.... AND FINANCIAL EXPERTS WARN IT COULD BE A TOUGH ONE. DESPITE STOCKS BEING AT FIVE-YEAR HIGHS... EXPERTS WITH NASDAQ SAY

THIS QUARTER IS EXPECTED TO BE THE BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT SINCE THE 2008 FINANCIAL CRISIS. FOURTH QUARTER REPORTS ARE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY GIVE A PICTURE OF THEIR FULL-YEAR PERFORMANCE. INVESTORS WILL ALSO GET AN IDEA OF WHETHER THE FISCAL CLIFF IMPACTED COMPANIES' PERFORMANCE.

January 8th

DON'T GET STUCK IN A JOB THAT'S GONNA MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE THIS...CAREER-CAST-DOT-COM IS HELPING YOU FIND SOME PEACE OF MIND WITH A LIST OF THE LEAST STRESSFUL JOBS THIS YEAR HAS TO OFFER.

3. Medical Records Technician

2. Seamstress or Taylor

1. University Professor

And chalk up aNOTHER WIN FOR THE LITTLE GUY. BIG BANKS ARE BEING FORCED TO PAY OUT AGAIN. THE FEDS HAVE REACHED A SETTLEMENT WITH TEN BANKS OVER ALLEGED FORECLOSURE ABUSES. SO HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU? NEARLY 3-POINT-8 MILLION BORROWERS WHOSE HOMES WERE IN FORECLOSURE DURING 2009 AND 2010 WILL RECEIVE SOME TYPE OF CASH SETTLEMENT. THOSE ELIGIBLE CAN EXPECT TO BE CONTACTED BY THE END OF MARCH.

1/9/13

PARENTS... IF YOU OWN A FISHER PRICE BABY SLEEPER LISTEN UP. THERE IS A VOLUNTARY RECALL ON THE newborn ROCK N' PLAY SLEEPER because of mold!
IT TURNS OUT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR MOLD TO DEVELOP BETWEEN THE REMOVEABLE SEAT CUSHION AND THE FRAME. NEARLY 800-THOUSAND that were SOLD SINCE SEPTEMBER 09 HAVE BEEN RECALLED. IF YOU SEE BROWN OR DARK SPOTS ON YOUR SLEEPER... STOP USING IT IMMEDIATELY.

1/10/13

BEANTOWN IS FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER... AND HAS DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY BECAUSE OF THIS YEAR'S FLU SEASON. THE NUMBER OF CONFIRMED FLU CASES HIT 7-HUNDRED in the city and 18 people have died across the state of massachusetts. At this time last year, there were only 70 known cases of the flu. And boston is not alone. 44 states are now reporting widespread flu. Health officials are recommending everyone six months and older get the flu shot *now!

1/11/13

YOU COULD GET FIRED IF YOU RISK COMING TO WORK LIKE THIS...THE U-S BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS LOOKED AT EMPLOYEE ABSENCES AND FOUND SICK DAYS SPIKE DURING FLU SEASON. BAD NEWS CONSIDERING THE C-D-C DUBBED THIS SEASON THE WORST IN A DECADE. ANOTHER STUDY SAYS THE FLU COSTS EMPLOYERS ABOUT 10-BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR DUE TO HOSPITAL AND OUTPATIENT VISITS.

1/14/13

MORE THAN 700 PATIENTS AT A V-A HOSPITAL IN BUFFALO MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO H-I-V! AND HEPATITIS B OR C...THE HOSPITAL IS SAYING INSULIN PENS were ACCIDENTALLY REUSED BETWEEN OCTOBER 20-10 AND NOVEMBER 20-12. EXPERTS SAY THE RISK IS VERY LOW...BUT THEY ARE STILL OFFERING FREE BLOOD TESTS TO ANYONE WHO WANTS TO RULE OUT ANY INFECTIONS.

1/15/13

THE PREZ IS DIGGING IN HIS HEELS SAYING HE WON'T BE HELD HOSTAGE BY REPUBLICANS OVER THE DEBT CEILING. REPUBLICANS WANT THE PREZ TO CUT SOME SPENDING IN ORDER TO REIN IN THE DEFICIT. THEY SAY THEN AND *ONLY THEN WILL THEY AGREE TO RAISE THE DEBT LIMIT AGAIN. BUT OBAMA WARNED IT'LL BE THE *REPUBLICANS FAULT IF WE DEFAULT ON OUR DEBT. UNFORTUNATELY... WE'LL *ALL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES IF THAT HAPPENS.

1/16/13

president obama will unveil his package of gun control proposals today. A ban on assault weapons and magazines over 10 rounds plus universal background and more than a dozen executive orders aimed at circumventing congressional opposition to stricter gun control. The broad package will also include efforts to stop bullying and boost availability of mental health services. While making the announcement, the prez will be surrounded by school kids who wrote to him about the newtown shooting.

1/17/13

NEW FORECLOSURE NUMBERS SHOW BANKS TOOK BACK FEWER TROUBLED HOMES LAST YEAR. in all, BANKS REPOSSESSED JUST OVER 671-THOUSAND HOMES... A NEARLY 17-PERCENT DROP FROM THE

MORE THAN 804-THOUSAND TAKEN BACK IN 20-11. FILINGS FOR FORECLOSUREs ALSO DROPPED THREE-PERCENT AND EXPERTS THINK THE POSITIVE TREND WILL CONTINUE THIS YEAR. THE STATE WITH HIGHEST FORECLOSURE RATE? FLORIDA... WITH ABOUT ONE IN 32 HOUSEHOLDS FILING.

1/18/13

STOCKS ARE ON THE UP THIS MORNING AS JOBLESS CLAIMS HIT A FIVE-YEAR LOW. FIRST-TIME FILINGS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FELL BY 37-THOUSAND TO 335-THOUSAND LAST WEEK. IT'S ALSO THE LARGEST WEEKLY DROP SINCE 20-10 AND ENDED FOUR STRAIGHT WEEKS OF INCREASES. EXPERTS SAY HOLIDAY HIRING MIGHT'VE EXAGGERATED DATA BUT overall it's still good. AMERICA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS JUST BELOW EIGHT-PERCENT RIGHT NOW.

1/21/13

THIS YEAR'S UNUSUALLY EARLY AND HARD-HITTING FLU SEASON IS FUELING THE DEBATE OVER PAID SICK LEAVE. ALL EYES ARE ON THE BIG APPLE RIGHT NOW... WHERE LAWMAKERS ARE CONSIDERING A SICK LEAVE PROPOSAL. FRIDAY... THERE WAS A RALLY ON THE STEPS OF CITY HALL... TO CALL FOR CITY COUNCIL TO PASS THE MEASURE... WHICH HAS BEEN WAITING ON A VOTE FOR 3 *YEARS!! AS OF RIGHT NOW... MORE THAN 40 MILLION AMERICANS DON'T HAVE PAID SICK LEAVE. AND BACK IN 2009... ABOUT 5 MILLION CASES OF FLU WERE SPREAD BECAUSE PEOPLE COULDN'T AFFORD THE TIME OFF.

1/22/13

FORTY YEARS AFTER ROE V WADE... MORE WOMEN IN MORE STATES ARE FACING ROAD BLOCKS WHEN IT COMES TO HAVING AN ABORTION. THAT'S DESPITE 7 OUT OF 10 AMERICANS THINKING THE RULING SHOULD STILL STAND... ACCORDING TO A NEW POLL. LAST YEAR... 19 STATES ENACTED A TOTAL OF 43 PROVISIONS... LIMITING WOMEN'S ABILITY TO GET AN ABORTION. 8 STATES NOW REQUIRE WOMEN WANTING AN ABORTION TO LOOK AT AN ULTRASOUND BEFORE HAND. AT LEAST 4 STATES... NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA... MISSISSIPPI... AND ARKANSAS... ONLY HAVE ONE CLINIC.

1/23/13

president obama is looking to get some immigration reform done soon and a new poll shows america is joining his line of thought on the issue. A NEW a-p, g-f-k POLL shows 6 OUT OF 10 AMERICANS NOW FAVOR a path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants already in this country. that's up 12 percent from just 2 years ago. and the dems are winning on this issue overall with 41 percent saying they trust them more than republicans to handle immigration.

1/24/13

THE HOUSE GIVES THE GREEN LIGHT TO PUSH THE DEBT LIMIT DEADLINE TO MAY. THE G-O-P CONTROLLED HOUSE OF REPS PASSED THE BILL 285 TO 144. BY SUSPENDING THE DEBT LIMIT... IT REQUIRES BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO COME UP WITH AND PASS A BUDGET RESOLUTION BY APRIL 15TH. AND IF THAT *DOESN'T HAPPEN... THEY DON'T GET PAID UNTIL THEY *DO.

1/25/13

THIS MORNING... SOME KIDS IN THE SOUTH ARE GETTING TO PLAY HOOKIE. THAT'S BECAUSE A LOT OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE PLAYING IT SAFE AND CANCELING CLASSES DUE TO THE SUBFREEZING TEMPERATURES MOVING IN TO THE AREA. AND STUDENTS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES AFFECTED. LOTS OF AIRPORTS CANCELED FLIGHTS LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING. ALL AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHTS IN AND OUT OF NASHVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THIS MORNING ARE SCRUBBED. SO BE SURE TO CALL AHEAD.

1/28/13

YOU MIGHT NOTICE AN EXTRA FEE ON YOUR RECEIPTS TODAY IF YOU PAY WITH PLASTIC. STORES IN ALL BUT TEN STATES CAN NOW CHARGE A "CHECKOUT FEE" FOR USING A CREDIT CARD. THE SURCHARGE OF UP TO FOUR-PERCENT... IS PART OF A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR DEAL BETWEEN MASTeR CARD, VISA AND RETAILERS LAST YEAR. YOU CAN AVOID THE FEE BY SWIPING DEBIT AND SEVERAL MAJOR STORES PLAN TO FOOT THE BILL INSTEAD OF CHARGING CUSTOMERS.

1/29/13

A TENNESSEE STATE SENATOR WANTS TO PUT THE PRESSURE OF WELFARE REQUIREMENTS ON THE KIDS. STATE REP STACEY CAMPFIELD HAS INTRODUCED A BILL requiring STUDENTS TO PASS FOR THEIR FAMILIES TO CONTINUE RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE. HE SAYS THIS WILL PUT THE PRESSURE BACK ON THE PARENTS TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN THEIR CHILD'S LEARNING. OPPONENTS

SAY THIS PUTS ALREADY AT-RISK KIDS UP AGAINST IMPOSSIBLE ODDS.

1/30/13

IF YOU DRIVE A TOYOTA OR LEXUS... PAY ATTENTION... BECAUSE 1 MILLION TOYOTA COROLLAS AND LEXUS I-S VEHICLES ARE BEING RECALLED. 752-THOUSAND TOYOTA COROLLA SEDANS AND TOYOTA MATRIX SMALL CROSOVERS... OH-3 AND OH-4 MODELS ARE BEING RECALLED BECAUSE OF A FAULTY AIRBAG CONTROL MODULE. IN A SEPARATE RECALL... 270-THOUSAND 2006 TO 2012... LEXUS I-S MODELS ARE BEING RECALLED TO CHECK FOR A LOOSE NUT ON THE FRONT WIPERS. FOR MORE INFO... HEAD TO THE D-B-Z DOT COM.

1/31/13

MOTHER NATURE GIVES A NOT-SO-SUBTLE REMINDER ABOUT WHO'S THE BOSS.SHE UNLEASHED TORNADOES AND SEVERE WEATHER ACROSS THE SOUTHEAST... KILLING TWO PEOPLE AND LEAVING DESTRUCTION IN HER PATH. ONE OF THE DEATHS WAS IN GEORGIA AND THE OTHER IN TENNESSEE. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LOST POWER... AND THIS MORNING THE CLEAN-UP BEGINS.

FEBRUARY 2013

2/1/13

WITH ALL THE TALK OF GUNS IN SCHOOL HERE IS YET ANOTHER IDEA ON HOW TO KEEP KIDS SAFE. MISSOURI STATE SENATOR DAN BROWN HAS PROPOSED A BILL THAT WOULD MAKE GUN SAFETY A REQUIRED CLASS FOR FIRST GRADERS! IF PASSED THE COURSE WOULD INCLUDE CARTOONS DESIGNED BY THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION AND WOULD TEACH FIRST-GRADERS WHAT TO DO IF THEY FOUND A WEAPON, TO PREVENT THEM FROM SHOOTING THEMSELVES OR SOMEONE ELSE.

2/4/13

THE PREZ IS HEADING TO THE LAND OF A THOUSAND LAKES TODAY to pitch his gun proposals. Minneapolis was chosen as the backdrop for the first pitch outside of washington because of recent steps the city has taken to tackle gun violence, including a push for stricter background checks. He'll try and rally support for his gun plan that includes a ban assault weapons and universal background checks from the public and law enforcement.

2/5/13

THE PREZ IS WASTING NO TIME HITTING THE ROAD FIRING OFF ABOUT THE NEED FOR STRICTER GUN CONTROL. HE TOOK HIS MESSAGE TO MINNEAPOLIS YESTERDAY... AND URGED THOSE WHO ARE IN FAVOR OF TOUGHER GUN CONTROL TO KEEP PUTTING PRESSURE ON CONGRESS. IT WAS THE FIRST STOP ON THE BIG O'S CAMPAIGN... WHICH IS DESIGNED TO KEEP THE HEAT ON LAWMAKERS... AND TO REMIND AMERICANS THERE'S A SENSE OF URGENCY.

2/6/13

AND SPEAKING OF CONGRESS... THE PREZ IS URGING THEM TO PASS A TEMPORARY FIX THAT WOULD OFFSET SOME OF THE LOOMING SPENDING CUTS. OBAMA STILL WANTS A PERMANENT SOLUTION... WHICH, IN HIS MIND, INCLUDES SPENDING CUTS... ENTITLEMENT REFORMS... AND GETTING RID OF SOME OF THE TAX BREAKS. THE MARCH 1ST DEADLINE IS LOOMING.... SO THE BIG O SAYS HE'S JUST TRYING TO GIVE CONGRESS MORE TIME.

2/7/13

WELL HERE IS A BRIGHT SPOT FOR ALL YOU IN THE NORTH EAST ABOUT TO GET SLAMMED WITH a massive BLIZZARD... AIRLINES ARE GIVING YOU SOME FLEXIBLE REBOOKING WAIVERS. MOST AIRLINES ARE GIVING A ONE TIME CHANGE WITHOUT the STANDARD FEE. SO if you are flying into or out of the new england area this weekend, CHECK with your AIRLINE TO SEE IF YOU can change your flight for free.

2/8/13

THE STUDY SAYS EATING LOTS OF SOUTHERN-STYLE FOOD MAY RAISE YOUR RISK OF HAVING A STROKE QUITE A BIT. THEY COMPARED MORE THAN 20 THOUSAND BLACK AND WHITE EATERS IN THE SOUTH AND FOUND SOMEONE WHO ATE SOUTHERN FOODS ABOUT 6 TIMES A WEEK WERE 41 PERCENT MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A STROKE COMPARED WITH PEOPLE WHO ATE THOSE TYPES OF VITTLES ONLY ONCE A MONTH.

2/11/13

LOOKS LIKE OUR BABIES ARE HAVING FEWER BABIES THANKS TO SCHOOL PROGRAMS! EXPERTS SAY FREE CONDOMS, hormonal birth control AND THE PLAN B PILL BEING EASY TO GET IN SCHOOLS HAS MADE HUGE DENT IN THE TEEN PREGNANCY RATE OVER THE PAST DECADE. IT HIT A RECORD LOW

LAST YEAR AND IS DOWN 49 PERCENT SINCE 19-91! OTHER FACTORS ARE TEENS HOOKING UP LESS AND OF COURSE THE DOWN TURN IN THE ECONOMY.

2/12/13

While you were sleeping, NORTH KOREA conducted an UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TEST, now the white house is on high alert! It's the FIRST test SINCE KIM JONG UN TOOK POWER just over a year ago AND foreign relations experts say it's a BOLD STATEMENT ABOUT HIS DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY... OR LACK OF IT. President Obama said this "PROVOCATIVE ACT" *IS A THREAT TO *OUR NATIONAL SECURITY... and THE UNITED NATION'S TOP DOG HAS CALLED AN EMERGENCY MEETING WITH THE U-N SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE BIG APPLE LATER TODAY.

2/13/13

NOW obama will hit the road, to TOUT HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS SPEECH. IT ALL STARTS TODAY IN ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA AT AN AUTO PARTS PLANT....WHERE HE'LL FOCUS ON JOBS... MANUFACTURING... AND MIDDLE CLASS OPPORTUNITIES. TOMORROW IT'S ON TO DECATUR, GEORGIA... WHERE HE'LL VISIT AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FACILITY. AND HE'LL CAP OFF THE WEEK FRIDAY IN CHI-TOWN... TO FOCUS ON GUN VIOLENCE.

2/14/13

APPROPRIATE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY... LATER THIS MORNING... THE ILLINOIS STATE SENATE IS EXPECTED TO PASS ALONG A GAY MARRIAGE BILL TO THEIR HOUSE OF REPS. WITH A 10-SEAT MAJORITY IN THE SENATE... DEMS HAVE THE VOTES THEY NEED TO MOVE IT TO THE HOUSE... WHERE THEY ALSO HAVE A MAJORITY. IF THE BILL MAKES IT TO THE DESK OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNOR PAT QUINN... ILLINOIS WILL BECOME THE TENTH STATE TO PASS SAME SEX MARRIAGE.

2/15/13

EVERYBODY'S ON THE MARY JANE TRAIN AS MAYOR BLOOMBERG ANNOUNCES LOOSER POT LAWS FOR N.Y.C. STARTING NEXT MONTH POSSESSION OF SMALL AMOUNTS OF MARIJUANA IN NEW YORK WILL EARN YOU JUST AN APPEARANCE TICKET IN FRONT OF A JUDGE, INSTEAD OF THE NORMAL BOOKING AND ARRAIGNMENT PROCEDURE. THE MAYOR SAYS THIS WILL BE A BETTER USE OF RESOURCES AND MOVE THE CITY TOWARDS DECRIMINALIZATION. N.Y. POT USERS ARE REPORTEDLY ALREADY PREPARING FOR THE CHANGE...

2/18/13

IF YOU'RE MARRIED, SEPARATED, OR GOING THROUGH A DIVORCE GET YOUR ISH STRAIGHT BEFORE GETTING ON A DATING WEBSITE! BECAUSE NOW OVER 59 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S TOP MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS ARE CITING DATING WEBSITES AS EVIDENCE. ACCORDING TO A RECENT SURVEY MATCH DOT COM WAS CITED BY 64 PERCENT OF THE RESPONDENTS AS A PRIMARY SOURCE, WHILE 57 PERCENT NOTED THE RELATIONSHIP STATUS LISTED BY USERS AS THE MOST COMMON PIECE OF EVIDENCE.SO BEFORE PLAYA'S AND PLAYETTES STAY WITH THE "IT'S COMPLICATED" STATUS FOR NOW!

2/19/13

DESPITE SOME STRONG RESISTANCE... THE COLORADO HOUSE PASSES TOUGHER GUN CONTROL LAWS. UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.... THE BAN OF CONCEALED GUNS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES AND STADIUMS... AND PEOPLE BUYING GUNS HAVE TO PAY FOR THEIR *OWN BACKGROUND CHECKS... ARE SOME OF THE KEY CHANGES. ALSO AMMO RESTRICTIONS... WHICH WOULD LIMIT MAGAZINES TO 15 ROUNDS FOR FIREARMS AND 8 FOR SHOTGUNS. NOW IT'S ON TO THE SENATE... WHERE IT WILL BE MUCH TOUGHER TO PASS.

2/20/13

TEACHERS AND COPS LAID OFF... DAY CARE CENTERS CLOSED... EVEN CRIMINALS RELEASED! THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE THINGS OBAMA IS WARNING WILL HAPPEN IF CONGRESS CAN'T GET THEIR BUTTS IN GEAR BY MARCH 1ST before AUTOMATIC BUDGET CUTS kick in. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TODAY IS PLANNING TO GIVE 800-THOUSAND PEOPLE NOTICE THERE could BE FURLONGHS IF THE CUTS HAPPEN. HOWEVER, MOST EXPERTS SAY IF CONGRESS CAN'T AGREE... THIS RIPPLE EFFECT WILL BE GRADUAL.

2/21/13

THE BIG O CONTINUES TO SHARE HIS *PERSONAL VIEWS ON GAY MARRIAGE... BUT HE WON'T SAY IF HE'LL INTERVENE WITH THE SUPREME COURT. THE WHITE HOUSE HAS UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH

TO FILE A BRIEF WITH THE HIGH COURT... ABOUT WHETHER THE PREZ WOULD LIKE TO SEE CALIFORNIA'S BAN ON GAY MARRIAGES OVERTURNED. WHEN ASKED DIRECTLY... OBAMA WOULDN'T SAY WHETHER HE'LL ENCOURAGE THE JUSTICES TO OVERTURN PROP 8. HE SIMPLY STATED THAT THE SOLICITOR GENERAL IS "LOOKING IN TO THE MATTER."

2/22/13

Turns out that flu shot we were all pushed to get... didn't really make much of a difference for GRAndma AND GRAndPa this year. New reports from the USA Today suggest that the shot only helped about 9-percent of people 65 and older. They BELIEVE that COULD ALSO BE why so many of them had to check in to hospitals.

2/25/13

Another blizzard that's supposed to hit tomorrow is heading your way. And this one's supposed to be worse! Denver got slammed yesterday and that sucker's now moving east. There have already been cancellations and road crews are scrambling to get salt and sand supplies. The governor of Kansas even amended last week's state of emergency to include this winter storm.

2/26/13

It's being called a crippling and historic blizzard. 16-hundred people are without power this morning in Amarillo, Texas... After getting 17 inches of snow! More than 14-hundred flights across the country have already been canceled and airlines are waiving change fees. So we've put a flight tracker link on the D-B-Z dot com. Jess will tell us where this storm is heading next, coming up.

2/27/13

It's on to the final hurdle for Illinois' gay marriage bill. Last night the House Executive Committee OK-ed and advanced the bill... 6 to 5... which would make same sex marriage legal in the Lincoln state. Democratic Governor Pat Quinn has already said he "would sign it if it reaches his desk. A vote in the House could happen next week.

2/28/13

After hearing arguments from the supreme court... It sounds like voting rights may be in jeopardy. If the high court overturns this particular provision they're questioning... 9 states... mainly in the south... would become free to change voting procedures *without getting permission first from federal higher ups. The high court's conservative justices are saying the south has outgrown its past and that the legal burdens were no longer justified. A decision isn't expected until June.

MARCH 2013

3/01/2013

Later this morning... the prez will meet with House Speaker John Boehner and other congressional big whigs to talk budget cuts. But if they *do come to an agreement... they can't get it voted on because Congress already went home! What *is expected... is both sides will use this meeting to outline their positions as we head towards the *next big deadline... March 27th. That's when the federal government would shut down.

3/04/2013

We might be catching a little break at the pump after all. Because of fear over the fall out of those automatic budget cuts... The price of oil fell Friday to its lowest level of the year. The cost of crude is down 6-percent in the past two weeks... which will reflect in gas costs. Right now... the average price for a gallon of regular is 3-dollars 75 cents....just one cent lower than this time a year ago.

3/05/2013

It's 20-13 and time to make changes..in the bathroom! That's what Cali lawmaker Tom Amiano wants. The assemblyman has introduced a legislation aimed at guaranteeing that transgender students have the right to use public school restrooms and participate on sports teams that correspond with their expressed genders!

-Discriminating against transgender people is illegal on California

-Supporters say the bill is necessary to ensure that school districts do not deny

STUDENT THE OPPORTUNITY

- PARENTS OF 6 YEAR OLD TRANSGENDER GIRL IN COLORADO FILED COMPLAINT BECAUSE SHE WAS DENIED ACCESS TO GIRLS BATHROOM

3/06/2013

THE FLIGHT ATTENDANTS UNION IS UPSET THIS MORNING AT A DECISION MADE BY THE TRAVEL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION. JOHN PISTOLE, HEAD OF THE TSA, ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY BEGINNING APRIL 25TH PASSENGERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO BRING SMALL KNIVES, 2 POINT 36 INCHES AND UNDER, ONTO PLANES. PISTOLE SAID TSA EMPLOYEES SPEND TOO MUCH TIME CONFISCATING THESE ITEMS CITING THE FACT THAT LAX ALONE TAKES UP 47 PER DAY. THE FLIGHT ATTENDANTS UNION CALLS IT "POOR AND SHORTSIGHTED".

3/07/2013

new this morning... NORTH KOREA VOWS TO NUKE AMERICA! A REP FOR KIM JUNG UN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY SAYS THE NORTH WILL EXERCISE IT'S RIGHT TO LAUNCH "A PREEMPTIVE NUCLEAR STRIKE." they say it's in response to the SANCTIONS BEING PUSHED BY U-S OFFICIALS. EXPERTS THINK IT'S ALL TOUGH TALK and say THEY *PROBABLY DON'T HAVE THE FIRE POWER TO pull it off. THE THREAT COMES JUST HOURS AHEAD OF A U-N VOTE ON TRADE BANS... AIMED AT CRIPPLING NORTH KOREA'S NUKE PROGRAM.

3/08/2013

if you're thinking about heading to florida this summer you better be on the lookout for mosquitos the size of the flying monkeys from the wizard of oz. the sun sentinel says the bugs are big, bold, American-made and will dominate the skies of the sunshine state. scientists say they are known for being aggressive and having a painful bite.

3/11/2013

And a warning for parents of kids who like "cold blooded" pets. A new CDC report shows Small water frogs marketed and sold as pets have been linked to 60-percent of the Salmonella cases from 2008 to 2011. And most of those affected were kids! The feds say people need to know reptiles and amphibians carry salmonella....and they shouldn't be kept in homes with kids younger than 5 or anyone with immune deficiencies.

3/12/2013

IT HAPPENS TO ALL OF US AT SOME POINT OR ANOTHER. WE MAKE A DECISION THAT WE ULTIMATELY REGRET. EITHER YOU CHOSE TO DO SOMETHING OR CHOSE NOT TO. WHAT YOU'RE LEFT WITH IS LESS THAN DESIRABLE AND ALL YOU CAN THINK IS "WHAT IF?". THAT'S ESPECIALLY TRUE IN CAREERS. BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT REGRET CAN OFTEN BE A GOOD THING. ESPECIALLY IN YOUR 20'S AND 30'S. BEING OLDER DOESN'T MEAN THE END OF THE WORLD BUT IN YOUTH YOU CAN DEFINITELY APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED TO A CAREER NOT YET FULLY REALIZED. THE FIRST THING YOU HAVE TO DO IS RECOGNIZE EXACTLY WHAT YOU REGRET AND WHY? THE NEXT STEP IS REMEMBERING WHERE YOU WENT WRONG. AND FINALLY, SET A NEW GOAL. AND MAYBE YOU DON'T HAVE A CAREER REGRET BUT A LIFE REGRET IN GENERAL. THEN LET'S GET ZEN FOR A MOMENT AND LEARN TO LET GO. WE ARE WHAT WE THINK. ALL THAT WE ARE ARISES WITH OUR THOUGHTS. WITH OUR THOUGHTS, WE MAKE THE WORLD. THE GREATEST IMPURITY IS IGNORANCE. FREE YOURSELF FROM IT. THERE ARE ONLY TWO MISTAKES ONE CAN MAKE ALONG THE ROAD TO TRUTH: NOT GOING ALL THE WAY, AND NOT STARTING.

3/13/2013

it's all but a done deal.... COLORADO WILL ALLOW CIVIL UNIONS OF GAY COUPLES. THE GOVERNOR OF COLORADO will GET the BILL ON HIS DESK TODAY AFTER it CLEARED THE HOUSE YESTERDAY by A VOTE OF 39 TO 26. GOVERNOR JOHN HICKENLOOPER IS EXPECTED TO SIGN it. THE LAW WILL TAKE EFFECT MAY 1ST and the denver post reports that will make COLORADO ONE OF 18 STATES which recognize same sex couples.

3/14/2013

And the automaker with the slogan "the most innovative ever" may be eating its words thanks to its latest recall. nissan motor company is recalling five vehicles from its lineup in a bid to fix an airbag problem that started with faulty sensors. the models affected include its 20-13 Altima, Leaf, Sentra, Pathfinder and Infiniti J-X-35. In addition to that... nissan is recalling some sentras because of gas tank problems.

3/15/2013

SINCE THE POPE TOOK OFFICE, U-S OFFICIALS ARE STEPPING INTO THE CONFESSIONAL AND REVEALING WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON. THE L-A TIMES SAYS IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS actually RELEASED THOUSANDS, NOT HUNDREDS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS as reported earlier. THE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY SAYS IT WAS DONE BECAUSE OF the MANDATORY BUDGET CUTS.

3/18/2013

THE RUSSIANS WANT ALASKA BACK! THE DECCAN HERALD SAYS A GROUP OF RUSSIANS WANTING TO PROTECT ALASKA'S ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS FROM THE PREZ'S PLANS TO LEGALIZE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE ARE SUING FOR THE RETURN OF THE STATE. THEY CLAIM THE PAYMENT WAS MADE BY CHECK AND NOT GOLD COINS AS REQUIRED IN THE CONTRACT BACK IN EIGHTEEN SIXTY SEVEN .

3/19/2013

THERE'S SOME FRIGHTENING NEWS ON THE FUTURE OF WEATHER FOR THE U-S... ACCORDING TO A STUDY PUBLISHED IN THE U-S-A TODAY... CLIMATE CHANGE COULD PRODUCE A STORM LIKE HURRICANE KATRINA EVERY TWO YEARS BY THE END OF THE CENTURY. SCIENTISTS SAY GLOBAL WARMING HAS ALREADY DOUBLED THE CHANCE OF STORMS LIKE KATRINA.

3/20/2013

"But".... THE U-S SENATE IS A "NO GO" FOR A BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS...And controversial film-maker MICHAEL MOORE WENT ON PIRS MORGAN LAST NIGHT TO talk about gun control "in general" and ECHOed THE FRUSTRATIONS OF MANY AMERICANS. SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HARRY REID SAYS THE GUN BILL WOULD NOT HAVE ENOUGH VOTES TO OVERCOME A REPUBLICAN FILIBUSTER IF IT INCLUDED THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN. It still includes EXPANDED BACKGROUND CHECKS, TOUGHER FIREARMS TRAFFICKING AND IMPROVED SCHOOL SAFETY.

3/21/2013

it's the moment we have all been waiting for... the house will vote on a bill this morning that could avoid a government shutdown.... but only temporarily. Sorry to get your hopes up.. but the bill the big wigs on capitol hill are voting on would only keep the government running until March 27th. And they better hurry up because friday they leave for a two week recess. Must be nice to work as hard as they do... right?!

3/22/2013

TODDLERS AND KIDS ARE EATING TOO MUCH SALT! THAT'S THE NEW WARNING HANDED DOWN FROM THE C-D-C.

GOVERNMENT RESEARCHERS LOOKED MORE THAN 11-HUNDRED READY-TO-EAT MEALS AND FOUND NEARLY THREE-QUARTERS OF THEM HAD "EXTREME" LEVELS OF SODIUM... WERE TALKING AS MUCH AS 630-MILIGRAMS...THAT'S ABOUT 40-PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION'S DAILY INTAKE RECOMMENDATION.

- TROUBLING BECAUSE THEY DEVELOP A TASTE FOR SALT WHICH CAN FOLLOW THEM LATER IN LIFE.
- LOTS OF SODIUM CAN CAUSE HIGH-BLOOD PRESSURE
- ABOUT 23-HUNDRED MILLIGRAMS IS WHAT'S RECOMMENDED FOR ADULTS

3/25/2013

SAME SEX COUPLES AROUND THE COUNTRY THIS MORNING ARE GEARING UP FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE BATTLE IN THE SUPREME COURT. OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS THE HIGH COURT WILL HEAR ARGUMENTS from BOTH SIDES OF THE GAY MARRIAGE DEBATE. THE DIFFERENT POSSIBLE OUTCOMES WHETHER OR NOT THE COURT WILL OVERTURN CALIFORNIA'S PROP 8 BAN AGAINST SAME SEX MARRIAGE AS WELL AS THE FEDERAL DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT COULD STILL LEAVE STATES WITH INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS TO MAKE THEIR LAWS, OR CREATE A FEDERAL BLANKET LAW, OR THE THIRD COULD BE A LEGAL DRAW IN WHICH THE COURT MAKES NO DECISION AND THEREFOR PROP 8 AND DOMA REMAIN.

3/26/2013

SOME AIRLINES ARE CONSIDERING ASKING YOU TO HOP ON THE SCALE BEFORE YOU HOP ON THE PLANE. AN ECONOMIST IN NORWAY SAYS AIRLINES SHOULD START CHARGING PASSENGERS BY THEIR WEIGHT. MORE FOR OBESE FLIERS AND A DISCOUNT FOR THE SKINNY FOLK, SINCE FUEL IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE WEIGHT ONBOARD. SOME AIRLINES ALREADY CHARGE LARGER PASSENGERS WHO CANNOT LOWER THE ARMREST THE PRICE OF AN EXTRA SEAT. BUT MANY EXPERTS SAY THE PROPOSAL WILL NEVER GET OFF THE GROUND.

3/27/2013

THE FED WILL GET THE LIFE SUPPORT IT NEEDS TO NOT SHUTDOWN. THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTS PRESIDENT OBAMA INKED A SPENDING BILL YESTERDAY TO KEEP DAY-TO-DAY WORK AND MILITARY OPERATIONS OVERSEAS GOING THRU SEPTEMBER...HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT INCLUDE 85-BILLION BUCKS IN "SEQUESTER" CUTS...LAWMAKERS WON'T TAKE THAT ON UNTIL next fall.

3/28/2013

DOES YOUR INTERNET SEEM A LITTLE SLOW LATELY? SORRY YOUR CUTE CAT VIDEO IS GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT BECAUSE THERE IS A WAR GOING ON! IN WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE LARGEST CYBER-ATTACK IN HISTORY. TWO SIDES ARE ON THE ELECTRONIC BATTLEFIELD... THE GOOD GUYS SPAMHAUS... A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION THAT DISTRIBUTES A BLACKLIST OF SPAMMERS EMAILS... AND THE BAD GUYS... SHADOWY GROUP OF HACKERS TRYING TO STOP THEM... THE BATTLE HAS NOW AFFECTED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD BRINGING THE INTERNET to A CRAWL.

3/29/2013

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN OKLAHOMA ARE GETTING URGED TO GET AN H-I-V TEST THANKS TO ONE DENTIST!!!!HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE URGING 7-THOUSAND PATIENTS OF TULSA ORAL SURGEON... DR. WAYNE SCOTT HARRINGTON... TO BE TESTED FOR POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO H-I-V... AS WELL HEP B AND C. AN INVESTIGATION UNCOVERED *MAJOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS. HARRINGTON HAS ALREADY SURRENDERED HIS LICENSE AND IS COOPERATING.